(b) if so, the criteria of citizens to be covered under the scheme;

(c) the amount involved to implement such a scheme on a massive scale; and

(d) how would it help the security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Government proposes to issue Multipurpose National Identity Card to the citizens of the country. However, keeping in view the complexities involved both of the processes and technology, a Pilot Project is under implementation on an experimental basis in selected sub-districts of 12 States and 1 Union Territory. The Government proposes to implement the scheme in the entire country after taking into account the experiences gained and lessons learnt from the Pilot Project.

(d) The Project envisages providing unique National Identity Number (NIN) to each person in the National Population Register. This will put in place a credible individual identification system which will help in improving the security management in the country.

Indo-US joint exercise at Kalaikunda, West Bengal

*6. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint exercise by Indian and the US Air Force has been conducted at Kalaikunda in West Bengal since 7th November, 2005;

(b) if so, the broad details of the purpose of the exercise;

(c) the year-wise details of joint military exercises conducted by Indian Defence Forces with those of friendly countries both in India and overseas during last three years; and

(d) the details of the primary benefits presumed to be accruing to the Indian Defence Forces by dint of such joint exercises?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A joint exercise by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United States Air Force (USAF) has been conducted at Kalaikunda in West Bengal since 7th of November 2005 to 19th of November 2005.

The purpose of the joint exercise is to learn and benefit from the philosophy and tactics of operations followed by the participating countries.

The year-wise details of the joint military exercises conducted by the Indian Defence Forces during the last three years is as follows:—

S.No.	Indian Defence Forces	2003	2004	2005	Participating Foreign Countries
1.	Indian Air Force	8	5	9	United States of America (USA), France, China, Oman, Russia, Indonesia, United Kingdom (UK), Singapore & Sri Lanka.
2.	Indian Army	4	5	7	USA, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Seychelles, Singapore, Russia & UK.
3.	Indian Navy	8	5	9	USA, France, China, Oman, Russia, Singapore, Indonesia, UK & Sri Lanka.

The benefits that have accrued to the Indian Defence Forces by the joint exercises are:

(i) Operational philosophies have evolved over the years drawing the best practices adopted during these exercises.

(ii) These exercises have enabled us to learn from their experience and formulate and refine our concepts and procedures.

(iii) These exercises have imparted training value and exposure to Defence personnel towards future engagement with foreign Air Forces.

(iv) The exercises have helped in making an assessment and evaluation of our own capabilities *vis-a-vis* the best of the world. The experience gained during the exercise would be gainfully utilized to improve our operational capability in future.

(v) These exercises have elevated the image of our country's military professionalism and potential all over the world.